

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 4, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on January 28, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Targeted Site Assessment, ThornApple Valley Site, Detroit, Michigan

On January 26, 2000, the first monthly meeting of Detroit's Redevelopment of Urban Sites (REUS) Team was held. The major discussions were focused on the Clean Michigan Initiative cleanup plans for the City. The City of Detroit REUS Team requested a site assessment of the abandoned ThornApple Valley meat packing plant in the Eastern Market Area of Detroit. Brownfields Pilot Manager, Ross Powers, requested that the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) perform the assessment, including sampling oily wastes in the powerhouse basement and under some vandalized transformers. A full report to the REUS team will be available for the February REUS meeting.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Public Meetings, Redevelopment Plans, City of Fort Wayne, Indiana

On January 13, 2000, Brooke Furio participated in two public meetings that provided the first look at the City's plans for the redevelopment of two of the three parcels of the Fort Wayne

Bowser Pump Plant Brownfields site. The 12-acre site has been divided into three parcels (A, B, and C). The redevelopment of Parcel C has already started. A new housing development called Phoenix Place will be completed on the parcel next year.

The two meetings held on January 13, 2000, unveiled a plan that would call for mixed uses of Parcel A and B. The proposed plan would hopefully eliminate the blighting influence of the Bowser Pump site and stabilize the residential neighborhood that surrounds the property. The plan was part of considerable research and public participation. The meetings were held to encourage comments about the plan, which is still in draft form. The meetings were held at the Greater Progressive Baptist Church and the Old Fort YMCA. Four of the nine City Council members attended the meetings.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Brownfields Assessment and Demonstration Pilot, City of Rockford, Illinois

On January 21, 2000, the City of Rockford came to the Region 5 offices to discuss their recently awarded United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The City of Rockford has selected an environmental consultant and is prepared to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan for their brownfields assessment work on multiple sites on the southwest side of Rockford.

Contacts: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)
Jan Pels (312-886-3009)

Targeted Site Assessment, Detroit School Board Site and others, Wayne County, Michigan

On January 18, 2000, the Wayne County Technical Team meeting was held. They reviewed the status of 17 brownfields sites. The results of a radiation survey conducted on the Detroit School Board site by U.S. EPA Region 5's radiation expert,

Larry Jenson, was provided. The other sites where U.S. EPA provided technical assistance include: Inster Landfill, geophysical survey by Jim Ursic and Scott Peterson; Sears in Hamtrack, lab results provided by the Central Regional Laboratory, Charles Elly; and, Studebaker Plant-Detroit, the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START). The START team will also be assisting in hazardous waste categorization work at the Cook Family Foods site.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Conference Call, Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, Chicago, Illinois

On January 11, 2000, U.S. EPA Region 5 staff participated in the first national conference call on the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. The calls are to be held to more closely monitor implementation of this program. The Regions were asked to discuss site-specific issues and accomplishments. It was announced that a Marketing Guide would be mailed directly to the pilots (each Region was asked to provide the most current mailing list); and, that a limited amount of supplemental funding would be made available to grantees that have already made loans and can use more money. Region 1 will draft suggestions on how to best communicate the availability of funds and the timing to the pilots. It was recommended to send letters to all existing pilots to be considered. There was a brief discussion about the work on changes to Subpart O and a suggestion that the impact of these changes on brownfields grants be carefully monitored by Brownfields staff. The Regions were reminded that Tim Fields, in his testimony before a Congressional subcommittee, assured Congress that de-obligation of funds would be considered next year if loans were not made. The Administrative Manual will be updated by addendum to incorporate the changes to the program. It was requested that questions be submitted in writing one week before future conference calls. The next call is February 8, 2000.

Contacts: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)
Linda Morgan (312-886-4747)

Meeting, Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Chicago, Illinois

On January 12, 2000, Brownfields staff met with Mark Enstrom with the Office of Small Business to discuss a project proposal. In addition to performing site assessment, the Department of Commerce would like to explore the viability of the use of tax credits as an economic tool.

Contacts: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)
Joe Dufficy (312-886-1960)

Meeting and Brownfields Site Tour, Mayor of Freeport, Freeport, Illinois

On January 12, 2000, Keary Cragan, a member of the Brownfields and Early Action section met with the Mayor of Freeport, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), environmental consultants, and the Freeport Fire Department to discuss brownfields issues in Freeport, Illinois. The City of Freeport has been awarded an Illinois EPA brownfields grant and plans to apply for a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and the additional funds for green space. The City is currently receiving U.S. EPA removal assistance on one site and wants to coordinate assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment activities on that downtown site and others.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)

Meeting, Brownfields Assessment and Demonstration Pilot, Oakland County, Michigan

On January 24, 2000, Mike Gifford and Brooke Furio met with a County Commissioner and several other representatives of Oakland County, Michigan. A representative from Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality also attended the meeting, which was held to discuss the County's interest in applying for the Brownfields Assessment and Demonstration Pilot.

Contacts: Mike Gifford (312-886-7257)
Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting with Wayne County, Michigan

On January 24, 2000, Mike Gifford and Brooke Furio of the Brownfields and Early Action Section met with Wayne County's Brownfields Cleanup and Revolving Loan Project Manager and the County's environmental consultants. The meeting was held to discuss several sites\projects in which the County could implement into the program.

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